

REMARKS

A petition for a two month extension of time has today been filed as a separate paper and a copy is attached hereto.

Also filed today as a separate paper is a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes and a copy of this paper is also attached hereto.

A "Substitute Specification and Abstract" is submitted herewith to address certain of the errors noted by the examiner in connection with the drawings and to otherwise place the case better English form. The "Substitute Specification and Abstract" contains no new matter. In order that the examiner can satisfy himself in this regard, also submitted herewith is a marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract, from which the "Substitute Specification and Abstract" was typed.

The examiner will note that, responsive to paragraph 2 of the office action, the teachings of the second full paragraph at page 10 of the original specification have been amended so that the specification now uses the reference numeral 3 only with respect to the transparent "object" or "layer" which may be a glass plate.

Responsive to paragraph 3a of the office action, Fig. 4 would be amended in accordance with the drawing change for which approval is requested.

Responsive to paragraph 3b of the office action, the nomenclature for the light represented by the dashed line and designated as 9 in Fig. 9 has been changed to “transmitted light” at page 11, line 16.

Responsive to paragraph 4 of the office action, the “transparent object” or “transparent layer” is shown in applicants’ drawings, for example, as layer 3 in Fig. 1. See the amendments to page 10, lines 1 and 6 of the original specification.

Responsive to paragraph 6 of the office action, the eye 10 in Fig. 6 represents the viewer. See the amendment to the penultimate line of page 10 of the original specification.

The examiner will note that claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claims 2 and 3. In view of the fact that the rejection for anticipation by Watanabe et al, as set forth in paragraph 8 of the office action, was not applied to claim 3, it is believed that the rejection is now moot.

Likewise, the rejection of claim 9 for anticipation/obviousness over Watanabe et al, as set forth in paragraph 10 of the office action, is believed to be moot in view of the fact that claim 5 depends from claim 1 amended to include the limitation of claim 3.

Likewise, the rejection of claim 6 for obviousness over Watanabe et al in view of Iwata et al is believed to be moot in view of the fact that claim 6 depends from claim 1 amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 3 and claims 8-13 for obviousness over Watanabe et al in view of Lee is the only rejection of record requiring treatment here and reconsideration by the examiner. The rejection for obviousness over Watanabe et al in view of Lee is respectfully traversed for several reasons. The examiner relies upon Lee for its disclosure of a “transparent object” in combination with a screen. In point of fact, the “light scattering layer” of Lee is in the form of window blinds. The three different embodiments disclosed by Lee are the vertical blinds 25, the horizontal blinds 35 and the roll blinds 40. In none of these embodiments are the blinds laminated to the “transparent object” (window 14). Indeed, the “blinds” of Lee would not be “blinds” if laminated to window 14. Accordingly, even if Watanabe et al were to be modified by inclusion of the window 14 of Lee the result would not be the claimed subject matter.

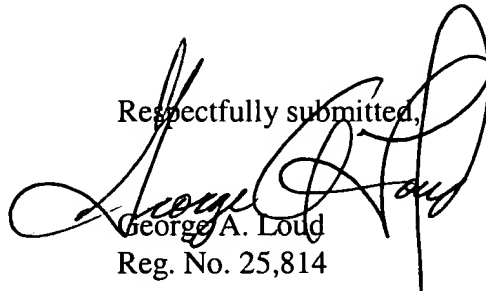
Secondly, as is clearly taught by Watanabe et al, for example in the abstract, the “minute transparent balls” are arranged “two-dimensionally in a single grain layer on the transparent base member.” [Emphasis added.] This element of Watanabe et al is not intended to serve as a “front-scattering layer but, rather, as a plano lens formed by the two-dimensional array of minute transparent balls “respectively partially buried therein so that each of the minute transparent balls has an exposed surface portion projecting from the color layer toward the light incidence side,” quoting from column 4, lines 40-43. See, for example, Figs. 8 and 9 of Watanabe et al. The present invention is an improvement over lens-type screens exemplified by Watanabe et al. See page 1, lines 8-12 of the “Substitute Specification.” Further, the protrusion of the balls from the screen surface, required by Watanabe et al, impairs the “see-through property.” See page 9, lines 9-16 and page 6, lines 11-17 of applicants’ original specification and new claim 20.

As repeatedly stated throughout applicants' specification, for example, at page 8, line 24 to page 9, line 3 of the original specification, the mean particle diameter and the refraction index ratio are important parameters in provision of a screen having the desired properties. Accordingly, claims 5 and 15-17 are believed to be further removed from the teachings of Watanabe et al which does not disclose or suggest either of these parameters.

Newly presented claim 18 finds support in the drawings of applicants' specification, especially Fig. 4.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George A. Loud', is written over the typed name and registration number.

George A. Loud
Reg. No. 25,814

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LORUSSO & LOUD
3137 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

(703) 739-9393

1. (Amended) A see-through light transmitting type screen comprising a light scattering layer having a front-scattering property and a transparent layer laminated on at least one side of said light scattering layer, said light-scattering layer comprising a transparent binder and spherical microparticles dispersed in said transparent binder.

5. (Amended) The light transmitting type screen of claim 1 [2], wherein the spherical microparticles have a mean particle diameter of $1.0\mu\text{m}$ - $10.0\mu\text{m}$ and a refraction index relative to that of the transparent binder n satisfying $0.91 < n < 1.09$ ($n \neq 1$).

7. (Amended) The light transmitting type screen of claim 1 [2], wherein the transparent binder is glass or a high molecular weight resin.

10. (Amended) The light transmitting type screen of claim 1 [9], wherein the transparent layer [object] has a refraction index lower than that of the transparent binder of the light scattering layer.

12. (Amended) The light transmitting type screen of claim 1 [11], wherein the transparent layer [object] has a refraction index higher than that of the transparent binder of the light scattering layer.